

Call for Participation – research trip “Open perspectives: Expanding Audience Engagement and Dialogue in Contemporary Art between Germany and Türkiye”

Dates: 17–21 November 2025

Location: Istanbul, Türkiye

Application deadline: Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis until spots are filled

Number of participants from Germany: 10

Working language: English

Engage audiences, broaden perspectives, build networks. Our research trip brings together museum professionals from Germany and Türkiye. Together, you'll explore how museums can reach new audiences for contemporary art taking into account different institutional and societal contexts. The historical and societal connections between Germany and Türkiye offer diverse starting points for this objective, which can be further nurtured through artistic exchange, dialogue, and audience development. During the trip, you will expand your professional network, identify institutional needs and highlight funding opportunities made possible through international collaboration.

The 18th Istanbul Biennial provides a timely occasion for discussing these issues on the ground: Can large-scale cultural events act as catalysts for long-term public engagement? Do they create sustainable structures? How do they foster civic dialogue?

Over four days, you will visit museums and contemporary art institutions in Istanbul, gaining insight into outreach and participation strategies from colleagues based in the cities of İzmir and Ankara, as well as other places across Türkiye. Together, you will explore how museums can engage new audiences through international collaboration.

What we offer:

- Accommodation and travel costs (from your nearest airport)
- An extensive programme including institutional visits, talks and presentations, and networking events
- Insights into curatorial approaches and audience engagement strategies from across Türkiye
- Exchanges with Turkish and German museum professionals
- Visit to the 18th Istanbul Biennial

Who this trip is for:

- Directors, curators, and outreach/education professionals affiliated with institutions based in Germany
- Professionals working in museums of contemporary art
- Museum professionals with a strong interest in audience development and international collaboration

Selection criteria:

- Professional experience relevant to the themes explored during the trip
- Engagement with strategies for audience development
- A demonstrable interest in international cultural exchange
- Motivation to participate and potential for long-term collaboration

How to apply:

Please submit the following documents to: programmes@museumsagentur.de

- Letter of motivation (max. 1 page)
- Up-to-date CV
- Proof of institutional affiliation (if not indicated in CV)

You can apply anytime. Selected applicants will be notified on a rolling basis.

Programme information:

This research trip is part of the "Open perspectives" programme. One of the programme's goals is to initiate cooperation through the organisation of research trips to regions with dynamic museum landscapes and the facilitation of initial in-person meetings amongst international museum professionals.

Contact

For any questions regarding the call for participation,
please contact:

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